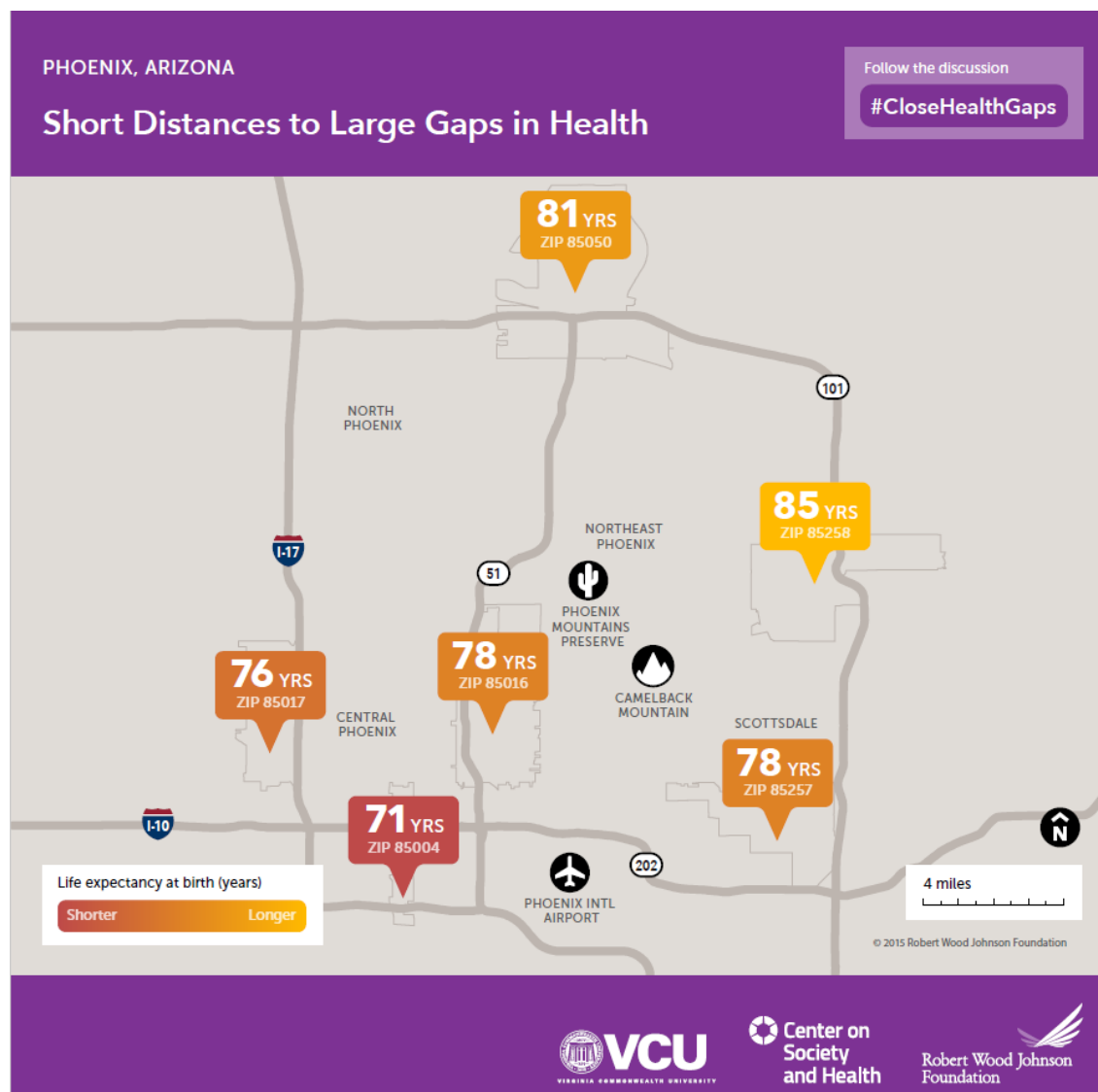
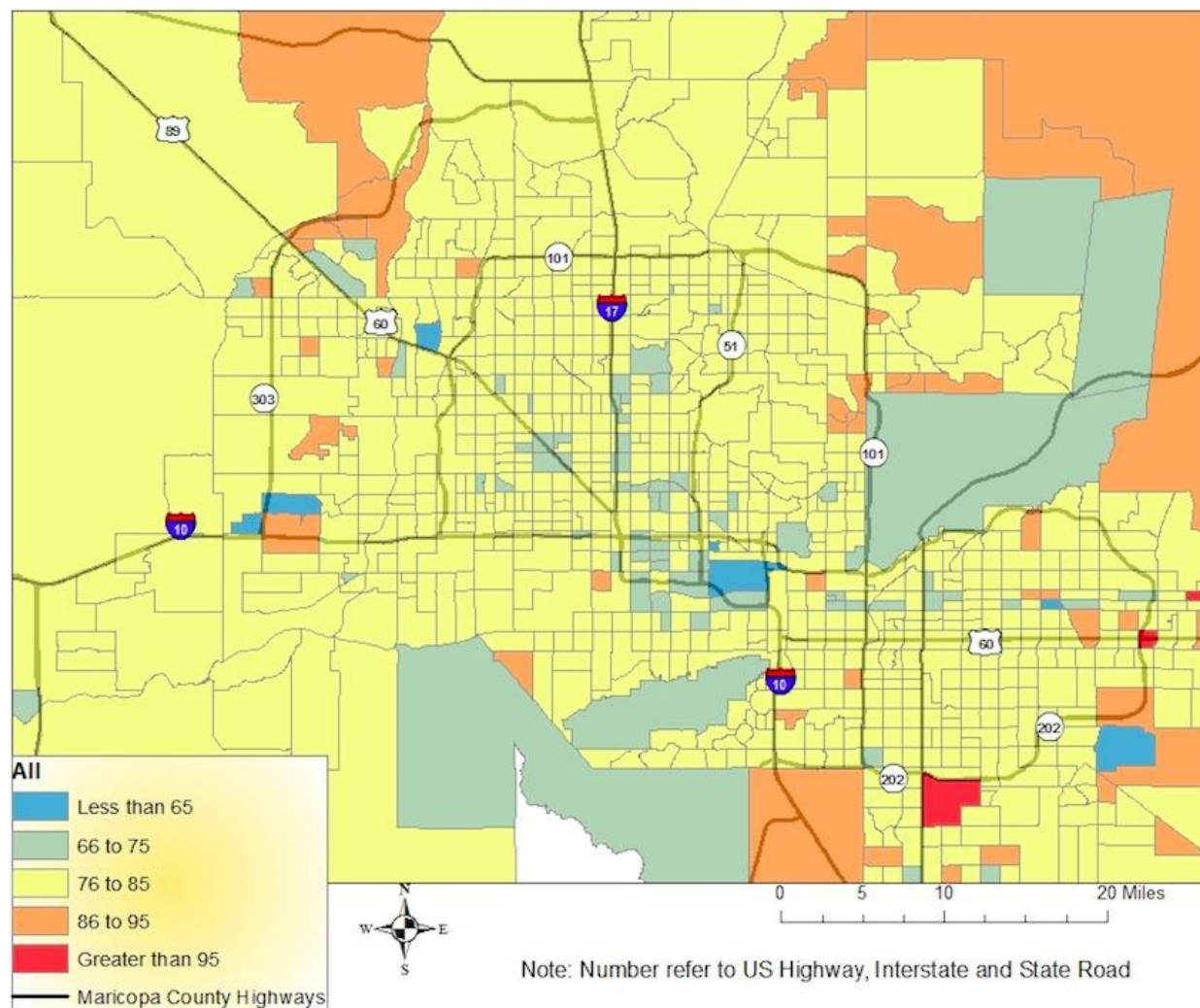


# Life expectancy (select zip codes)



# Life expectancy (county-wide)



# Why do health gaps exist?



- **Education and income** are directly linked to health: Communities with weak tax bases cannot support high-quality schools and jobs are often scarce in neighborhoods with struggling economies.
- **Unsafe or unhealthy housing** exposes residents to allergens and other hazards like overcrowding.
- **Stores and restaurants selling unhealthy food** may outnumber markets with fresh produce or restaurants with nutritious food.
- **Opportunities for residents to exercise, walk, or cycle** may be limited and some neighborhoods are unsafe for children to play outside.
- **Proximity to highways, factories, or other sources of toxic agents** expose residents to pollutants.
- **Access to primary care doctors and good hospitals** may be limited.
- **Unreliable or expensive public transit** can isolate residents from good jobs, health and child care, and social services.
- **Residential segregation and features that isolate communities** (e.g., highways) can limit social cohesion, stifle economic growth, and perpetuate cycles of poverty.

To build a Culture of Health—where every person, no matter who they are or where they live, has the opportunity to be as healthy as they can be—we must improve people's opportunities to be healthy in the places where they live, learn, work and play.

Follow the discussion

[#CloseHealthGaps](#)

# Where does health start?



SOURCE: World Health Organization (WHO), 1995.